

## Tobacco (Continued)

- ❑ According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (Houston County), 33% of residents are currently smokers as compared to an estimated 26.5% of Tennesseans.
- ❑ It was noted cigarette use at the county high school is a significant problem as noted by observation of the student usage on campus. It is believed disciplinary action may be lax because of other problems that are more critical to student management. Violence (fighting) was identified as the more serious issue at the present time.

## 2. Alcohol (84 Points)

- ❑ Juvenile Court (1996) recorded 77 delinquent petitions. About 1/3 of the petitions involved Alcohol and Drugs (mostly alcohol related). Sixteen (16) cases were alcohol offenses and another 7 cases involved alcohol and drugs although a specific A & D charge was not filed.
- ❑ During 1996, there were 8 dependent/neglect or abuse cases leading to children being placed in foster care. Seven of the eight cases involved a parent's problem with alcohol. This ratio equals to 87.5% of the cases being directly related to alcohol abuse.
- ❑ A considerably higher number of Houston County students used alcohol within the past year than the national student average. Specifically, 31% more 8th grade, 30% more 9th-10th grade, and 19% more 11th-12th grade students in Houston County used alcohol during the past year than the national student average according to The American Drug and Alcohol Survey.
- ❑ Houston County had 92% fewer DUI convictions than Trousdale County and 86% fewer DUI convictions than Stewart County between 1986-1996. The population of Trousdale County is 16% less than Houston County and Stewart County's population is 35% greater than Houston County.
- ❑ It was suggested the low DUI conviction rate during the 1986-1996 period was due to a lower enforcement capability in the county as compared to Stewart County. The lower DUI convictions have not resulted in a higher Motor Vehicle Accident Death rate as evident in the mortality statistics in the Houston County Data Summary.
- ❑ Although the 1996 juvenile court data shows no driving privileges were denied due to violations of the Drug Free Youth Act, the license of every youth found guilty according to the DFYA was taken and held by the county court. Currently, the driver's license is sent to the state office.

## 3. Drugs (85 Points)

- ❑ Twenty-five (25) percent of local 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Graders and 20% of local 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders have tried Inhalants as compared to 17% of 12<sup>th</sup> Graders nationwide.